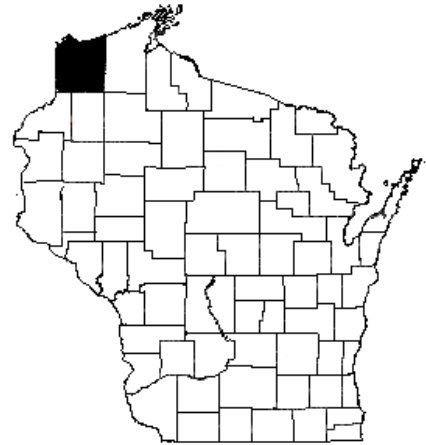




# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Douglas County



### **County characteristics**

- 1,342 sq. mi.
- Mostly forested. The Superior Coastal Plain historically was almost entirely forested and is now a mix of forest, agriculture, and grassy-brushy land. The western part has extensive wetlands and wet forests. The southwest portion, part of the Northwest Sands, contains hundreds of kettle lakes and remnants of the once common pine barrens habitat type.
- Largest port on the Great Lakes at Superior.
- Waters: 23 miles of Lake Superior shoreline; 431 inland lakes, 233 miles of spring-fed trout streams.
- Border with Minnesota includes the 11,000 acre St. Louis River estuary.
- There are 43,287 residents living in Douglas County.



### **Lands Open to Hunting and Fishing**

- Douglas Co. Forest: 269,042 acres
- Brule River State Forest: 40,922 acres
- St. Croix Scenic Riverway: 1,209 acres
- Industrial Forest lands: 60,000 acres
- 10,121 acres of state wildlife, fisheries, and streambank areas.

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### **DNR Staff serving you**

- 2 Wildlife Biologists; 2 Fisheries Biologists; 2.5 Conservation Wardens;

- 2 Customer Service Representatives. Office, 1401 Tower Ave., Superior, 54880.
- Staff also serves Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron counties.

### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Routine fish assessments of inland lakes and streams.
- Control of sea lamprey with barriers on the Middle and Brule rivers.
- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for waterfowl, sharptailed grouse, turkeys, and other wildlife species.
- Wetland restoration on private lands cost-shared with grants from NAWCA, USFWS, and Ducks Unlimited.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of deer, bear, waterfowl, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodcock, frogs, furbearers, marsh birds, eagles, osprey, trumpeter swans, common terns and ring-billed gulls.

*Activities continued...*

- Enforcement: Provide enforcement coverage for all fish, game, environmental, and recreational activities in the county. Superior Warden also conducts boating and fishing patrols on Lake Superior. Major violations addressed have included illegal poaching of fish and game, cabin shooting at night for deer and bear.
- Community Warden projects include kids fish stocking programs, school programs, archery range program in Brule, and introduction of youngsters to archery.
- Provide wildlife damage and nuisance abatement information and assistance.
- Monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.

### ***Douglas County Conservation Snapshots***

41 boat launch sites  
ALIS Agent Supported  
Deer, Turkey & Bear Registration Stations



### ***Fish Stocking Summary***

- In 2004: 13,500 brook trout, 113,587 Chinook salmon, 6,077 lake sturgeon, 90,206 lake trout, and 486, 803 walleye.

### ***County Success Stories***

- Restored Brule River fishery (supports 37,000 angler trips annually) to one of the healthiest on Lake Superior by adding gravel to 50 spawning sites, recovering spawning habitat on 4.9 miles of Brule tributary habitat and improving trout cover in 5 reaches.
- Controlling water pollution and stocking fish allowed recovery of St. Louis estuary fishery.
- Purple loosestrife control on the Gordon Flowage.
- Turkey introduction program.
- Wildlife habitat management on the Douglas County Forest including forest wildlife openings maintenance and flowage management.
- Wildlife habitat management on the Brule River State forest including grassland, wetlands, and forest wildlife openings.
- Wetland restoration and creation on private lands.
- Maintained the common tern population in the St. Louis River estuary by providing nesting habitat.
- Wildlife staff provide input on county forest plans and help develop wildlife projects on the Douglas County Forest.

### ***Challenges to Maintaining Your County Hunting and Fishing Opportunities***

- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat
- Natural conversion of early successional forest types - especially aspen which is a critical habitat type for many wildlife species,- to northern hardwood and other forest types
- Loss of pine barrens habitat due to forestation.
- Loss of grassy-brush habitat due to reforestation.
- Decreasing land available for outdoor recreation
- Increasing recreation pressure on public lands

***Want to Learn More?*** Go to [dnr.wi.gov/invest](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest)

March 2005